

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 310789
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13
EB-08 /098 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:RKATES:LAR
APPROVED BY AF/C:LDJUNIOR
-----046360 311558Z /41

R 302321Z DEC 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 310789

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, CG

SUBJECT:MEETING WITH FRENCH FINANCIER BOUCHINET-SERREULLES

1. SUMMARY: IN DECEMBER 30 MEETING WITH AF/C DIRECTOR JUNIOR, FRENCH FINANCIER, BOUCHINET-SERREULLES, REVEALED THAT INFORMAL FRENCH GROUP HAS BEEN ADVISING MOBUTU ON MEASURES TO ASSIST ZAIRE TOWARD ECONOMIC RECOVERY. IN ADDITION SERREULLES EXPRESSED OPINION THAT FRENCH AND US VIEWS DOVETAILED ON NEED TO MAINTAIN PRESSURE ON MOBUTU TO IMPLEMENT ANNOUNCED REFORMS. END SUMMARY.

2. FRENCH FINANCIER CLAUDE BOUCHINET-SERREULLES MET DECEMBER 30 WITH AF/C OFFICE DIRECTOR JUNIOR AND DISCUSSED ZAIRIAN ECONOMIC SITUATION. SERREULLES DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS A FINANCIER WHO, WITH VIEW TOWARD INCREASING FRENCH PRESENCE AND INFLUENCE IN ZAIRE, HELPED ESTABLISH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 310789

FRANCO-ZAIRIAN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY. FRENCH CONTINGENT COMPRISED OF PROMINENT CITIZENS, INCLUDING EDGAR FAURE, WHO HONORARY PRESIDENT, AND A REPRESENTATIVE FROM ELYSEES,

WHO ARE ALL VOLUNTEERS AND APPARENTLY VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT ZAIRE. ACCORDING TO SERREULLES, MOBUTU SO PLEASED WITH ACTIVITIES OF SOCIETY THAT THIS PAST SUMMER HE

REQUESTED SERREULLES TO PUT TOGETHER GROUP WHICH WOULD ADVISE MOBUTU ON MEASURES LEADING TO ZAIRE'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY. THE RESULT WAS 10-PAGE MEMORANDUM WHICH WAS GIVEN TO MOBUTU APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK BEFORE HIS NOVEMBER 25 SPEECH. RECOMMENDATIONS WERE LARGELY REFLECTED IN THAT SPEECH. DURING EARLY DECEMBER SWEARING-IN CEREMONIES IN KINSHASA, MOBUTU LUNCED WITH SERREULLES AND REQUESTED THAT FRENCH GROUP CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC ADVICE. IN CONSEQUENCE, WORKING GROUPS (3 OR 4 MEMBERS EACH) HAVE BEEN FORMED TO CONCENTRATE ON DEVELOPMENT IN AGRO-INDUSTRIAL SECTOR, ENERGY, POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE. SERREULLES ATTRIBUTED MOBUTU'S VOLTE-FACE TO A RECOGNITION ON MOBUTU'S PART THAT HE ALMOST LOST POSITION AS WELL AS HIS LIFE AS A RESULT OF SHABA AND THAT HE WOULD NEED FOREIGN EXPERTS TO TURN THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY AROUND. SERREULLES SAID NO ONE IN HIS GROUP WAS POLLYANNISH ENOUGH TO BELIEVE THAT MOBUTU HAD CHANGED HIS SPOTS. BUT THE SITUATION SO BAD THAT MOBUTU WAS NOW READY TO LISTEN TO SUCH PROPOSALS.

3. AF/C DIRECTOR JUNIOR THEN OUTLINED FOR SERREULLES WASHINGTON'S VIEW OF ZAIRE'S IMPORTANCE AND PRESENT ECONOMIC PLIGHT, INCLUDING THE NEED FOR A STRONG AND UNIFIED FRIEND OF THE WEST IN THAT PART OF AFRICA; THE WIDESPREAD SKEPTICISM WHICH EXISTS REGARDING MOBUTU'S INTENTION TO IMPLEMENT ANNOUNCED REFORMS; THE NEED FOR CON-
CRETE PROPOSALS AND ACTIONS ON THE PART OF MOBUTU TO
DISPEL THIS SKEPTICISM; AND THE NEED FOR SUCCESSFUL
CONCLUSION OF THE IMF/GOZ NEGOTIATIONS IN FEBRUARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 310789

TION TO IMPLEMENT ANNOUNCED REFORMS; THE NEED FOR CON-
CRETE PROPOSALS AND ACTIONS ON THE PART OF MOBUTU TO
DISPEL THIS SKEPTICISM; AND THE NEED FOR SUCCESSFUL
CONCLUSION OF THE IMF/GOZ NEGOTIATIONS IN FEBRUARY.

4. SERREULLES REPLIED THAT ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SPEAK FOR FRENCH GOVERNMENT, HE WAS AWARE OF THEIR VIEWS AND SAID THEY COINCIDED WITH THOSE OF THE U.S. FRANCE CONVINCED THAT MOBUTU IS THE ONLY PERSONALITY WHO CAPABLE OF KEEPING ZAIRE TOGETHER, AND THAT PROGRESS WILL BE MADE ONLY BY WORKING THROUGH HIM.

5. SERREULLES SAID HE WAS AWARE OF BELGIUM'S EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE A MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE EFFORT FOR ZAIRE BUT THAT HIS GROUP HAD NO INTENTION OF INTERFERING WITH SUCH GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT ARRANGEMENTS. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HIS GROUP WANTED TO GIVE MOBUTU POINT OF VIEW OF PRIVATE SECTOR. HE ADDED THAT IF OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED ITSELF, HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH ARCHITECTS OF THE BELGIAN PLAN.

6. SERREULLES AGREED TO OUR SUGGESTION THAT WE SHOULD

KEEP IN TOUCH, PROBABLY THROUGH EMBASSY
PARIS ON THESE MATTERS. CHRISTOPHER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE310789
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RKATES:LAR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780004-0703
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977122/aaaaabkc.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f0780efd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 134685
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH FRENCH FINANCIER BOUCHINET-SERREULLES
TAGS: EAID, CG
To: KINSHASA PARIS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbcf://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f0780efd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009